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WASHINGTON (UPI)--THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS LIFTED ITS CUSTOMARY VEIL OF SECRECY JUST ENOUGH TO SUPPORT PART OF SEN. THOMAS J. DODD'S EXPLANATION OF A CONTROVERSIAL 1964 TRIP TO WEST GERMANY.

THE SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE MADE PUBLIC TUESDAY A LETTER FROM CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD M. HELMS THAT SAID THE CONNECTICUT DEMOCRAT SOUGHT INFORMATION ON SOVIET TERROR AND ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER THE TRIP.

DODD'S FORMER AIDES TOLD THE COMMITTEE THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO HELP PUBLIC RELATIONS MAGNATE JULIUS KLEIN HOLD ON TO LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS WITH WEST GERMAN BUSINESS INTERESTS.

DODD DENIED THIS, TESTIFYING THAT HE FLEW TO GERMANY IN BEHALF OF THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE TO INTERVIEW BOGDAN STASHYNSKY, A CONFESSED SOVIET ASSASSIN WHO DEFECTED TO THE WEST AND WAS IN A WEST GERMAN JAIL.

THE TRIP IS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN THE ETHICS COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION OF MISCONDUCT CHARGES AGAINST DODD. THE PANEL NOW IS GATHERING MATERIAL FOR LATER HEARINGS ON ALLEGATIONS OF AN IMPROPER USE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER FINANCIAL QUESTIONS.

HELMS' LETTER, AN UNUSUAL DEPARTURE FROM THE CIA'S CUSTOM OF STRICT SECRECY AND AVERSION TO PUBLICITY, CONFIRMED DODD'S INTEREST IN STASHYNSKY. IT DID NOT SAY, HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS WAS THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE SENATOR'S TRIP.

HELMS WROTE SEN. JOHN C. STENNIS, D-MISS., THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, THAT DODD HAD ASKED THE CIA TO "CONFIRM THE FACT OF HIS CONTACTS WITH THIS AGENCY IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON SOVIET MURDERS, ASSASSINATIONS AND KINDNAPINGS."

STENNIS SAID THE LETTER, DATED JULY 14, "WAS HANDED TO ME BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CIA WHO STATED IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES MADE BY SEN. DODD."

HELMS DID NOT COMMENT ON THE MERITS OF DODD'S TRIP, WHETHER IT WAS NECESSARY, OR WHETHER IT CONTRIBUTED TO THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE EFFORT.

THE CIA'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO INTERCEDE IN DODD'S BEHALF IN A CONGRESSIONAL CONTROVERSY WAS INTERPRETED IN SOME QUARTERS AS A GESTURE OF APPRECIATION FOR DODD'S PAST PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE AGENCY.

HELMS CONFIRMED THAT THE CIA, AT DODD'S REQUEST, SUPPLIED INFORMATION ABOUT STASHYNSKY AND THE SOVIET MURDER APPARATUS BEFORE AND AFTER THE SENATOR'S TRIP. HE ALSO SAID DODD INTERVIEWED A CIA AGENT IN BONN AND A GERMAN LEGAL OFFICIAL AND WENT TO KARLSRUHE FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH STASHYNSKY HIMSELF.

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